

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, August 4, 2003

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, August 4, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair

Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson

Planning Commissioner Lyle Werner

Gabriella Kelemen

Peg Coleman

Sandy Kane

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow

Mike Bomgardner

Mark McCartney

Citizens present

Craig Lane

Jason Green

Steve Johns

Colby Reilly

John Mullens

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Lyle Werner, seconded by Mike Bomgardner, the minutes of the June 30, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved, as corrected to note that Sandy Kane moved to Leesburg in 1997, not 1977.
2. *Public Comment:* (a) John Mullens noted that he was in attendance to learn more about plans for SW Quadrant traffic calming proposals and he was particularly concerned with traffic speed and volume in the vicinity of Meade Drive and Moore Place. (b) Steve Johns, the Woodlea Manor HOA chair on traffic concerns, thanked the Committee for marking the stop bar and moving the stop signs closer to Meade Drive, S.W. on Deer Meadow Place. (c) Jason Green and Colby Reilly reported that they live on Meade Drive in the vicinity of Fairfield Drive and felt that speed and volume were a serious problem on Meade Drive, S.W. in that vicinity. They felt that recorded speeds were reduced by drivers being able to spot the police officer and also that speed needed to be recorded closer to Fairfield Way, S.W. to get a true picture. They also reported that it was important to measure both speed and volume when the public schools are open to get an accurate picture. (d) Craig Lane asked about news media reports that there would be a fall referendum regarding funding Sycolin Road widening improvements. Calvin Grow reported that the Town's share of the improvements was fully funded and that there was discussion under way about the County seeking funding for VDOT's construction of the fly-over at the By-Pass via bond funds approved in a referendum.
3. *S.W. Quadrant projects in FY '04 budget:* Liz Whiting asked Peg Coleman to give a summary of the projects identified after the on-site walk and the community reaction she had since received. Peg Coleman reported that: (a) Woodlea Manor residents report satisfaction with the proposed crosswalk at the intersection of Meade Drive and Hague Drive. (b) Greenway Farms residents, however, continue to express concern that the Committee proposal

fails to address that the core problem along Meade Drive, S.W. in their neighborhood is in the vicinity of the intersection with Fairfield Way, S.W. due both to speed and volume. Discussions with Liz Whiting led Peg Coleman to question, if the speed studies are correct, whether the problem is that traffic intended to go elsewhere is using Meade Drive, S.W. as a cut through. Liz Whiting noted that under the Design and Construction Standards Manual that collector streets designed for a certain volume of traffic don't have direct driveway access. Peg Coleman and Liz Whiting asked that this segment be evaluated under the cut-through traffic program, as well as restudying speed and volume data after school is open. The plan is for the Department of Engineering and Public Works to conduct the studies Friday September 12th, collecting at least 24 hours of data. (c) Country Club Drive, S.W. residents expressed concern that constructing an enhanced pedestrian crosswalk in an area not heavily used by pedestrians won't have the calming effect desired and questioned the idea of doing so when the preferred pilot project was the impressed and painted median in Country Club Drive, S.W. The Committee decided to recommend painting a temporary median where the impressed and painted median was recommended and seek funding for the original installation in next year's budget if the results support the predicted outcomes. Town staffs to a work up draft letter to Country Club Drive, S.W. residents for August 25, 2003 meeting.

4. *FY '03 and '04 Traffic Calming Projects:* Mike Bomgardner reported that the estimate for the crosswalk at Meade Drive S.W. and Hague Drive, S.W. was \$8160.00; that the Kincaid Boulevard, S.W. crosswalk (exclusive of handicap ramp and sidewalk installation, needed because connecting to the existing improvements would be even more expensive) is almost \$18,000.00; and the crosswalk in Tavistock Farms across Macalister Drive, S.W. would be approximately \$7800.00. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the FY '04 budget approval allows the Committee to approve construction of the described improvements of up to \$21,500.00 in the S.E. Quadrant and up to \$20,000.00 in the S.W. Quadrant. Carry over funds of \$6888.00 from the FY '03 budget were earmarked for the Committee's use and were originally committed to the South King Street/Fairfax Street S.E. project. Calvin Grow confirmed that the contract for the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. /Catoclin Circle, N.E. intersection improvements has been awarded and includes no landscaping. The Committee noted that the Kincaid Boulevard, S.E. crosswalk alone is likely to consume the entire S.E. Quadrant budget, and recommended that the Tavistock project be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The Meade Drive/Hague Drive S.W. crosswalk is more than \$3000.00 above the amount used for budgeting projections and any project in the vicinity of Meade Drive, S.W. and Fairfield Way, S.W. is still some time from identification, as well as likely beyond the funds projected at that location. The Committee decided to tentatively earmark any savings from temporarily marking the Country Club Drive, S.W. median to be added to the \$6888.00 originally designated for the South King Street project, acknowledging that

still more funds would have to be provided for South King Street project, and reserve for the S.W. Quadrant Project the \$5000.00 in estimated funds needed for the Greenway Farms crosswalk improvement approved in the FY '04 budget. Staff expects to have better estimates for constructing the South King Street improvements and will develop estimates for those costs not included in the projections for S.E. and S.W. Quadrant projects for the Committee's consideration at the August 25 meeting. The plan, when final figures are available, is to request a work session with the Town Council, to brief them on the projects selected (among those approved with the quadrant budget approvals) and recommended when funding would have to come from shifting funds from one quadrant to another, (e.g., the Country Club balance to South King Street) and why and ask for the Council's approval of the reallocation.

Landscaping improvements: Liz Whiting reported that she was pursuing a general landscaping policy and plan through the Leesburg Main Street partnership, and found herself nominated to help develop the structural model for Leesburg's program. What she hopes will come out of this will be a Town wide plan for landscaping-appropriate infrastructure improvements, to include SRTC projects, and a funding mechanism—perhaps similar to the “Adopt-A-Spot” program or the outcome of competition to design and install landscaping—that would leverage private funds with public funds.

5. *Town sidewalk master plan update:* Calvin Grow reported that the Town is awaiting the product to be developed by the consultant hired to update the GIS system to give an accurate baseline depiction of existing and planned trails. The Committee asked that this topic be updated once that report is received.
6. *Vacancy of Southeast Citizen Representative Update:* The Committee formally welcomed Sandy Kane and noted that no further report was required on this item.
7. *Tavistock Farms and Kincaid Forest subdivision tour update:* Calvin Grow noted in addition to the S.E. Quadrant project improvements discussed that the Town had added a stop bar on the southern side of the intersection of Patrice Drive, S.W. with Kincaid Boulevard, S.E.
8. *Parking Consultant update:* No report was available due to Nick Colonna's absence. Liz Whiting and Lyle Werner reported concerns based on anecdotal reports, (e.g., that the consultant was unaware of the Town office expansion plans and that questioning did not seem to be well organized to develop the data needed).
9. *Committee member concerns:* (a) Liz Whiting had forwarded Lyle Werner's request that parking on the west side of North King Street, just south of the intersection with North Street, be reevaluated. Signs formerly restricted parking to “compact” vehicles, a restriction hard to enforce. Liz Whiting also

noted that any parking restriction might pale as a solution in light of the sight distance obstruction posed by the utility pole at that location. Staff will report on the concern at the next meeting. Lyle Werner also reported renewed neighborhood concerns with speeding and traffic volumes along South King Street. After some discussion, it was agreed that Lyle Werner would urge exploration enacting the \$200.00 add-on penalty for speeding if traffic studies confirm the perceived speeding problem. The Committee felt that they could support such a request if the studies confirm the problem because, no matter how prominent the corridor on which they reside, the South King Street residential area is a well established residential neighborhood entitled to protection under the guidelines of the Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee's mission. (b) Sandy Kane noted handicap parking issues she had identified to Town staff; most visibly in the Town parking garage. Liz Whiting also noted problems (and recent improvements) with parking in the vicinity of the courthouse. (c) Gabe Kelemen remarked on problems observed with day care centers imposing prohibitive penalties for late pick-up of children and asked what regulation, if any, was available to the Town if, as perceived, such policies were contributing to speeding in residential neighborhoods abutting the centers. The Committee asked for a report from the Town Attorney as to what, if any, authority was available to limit or prohibit such penalties.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, August 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.